

## **V. REMARKS**

Claim 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Loose et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087690). Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Okada (U.S. Patent No. 5,152,529). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The first reference (Loose et al.) discloses a spinning reel slot machine provided with a plurality of mechanical reels and a video display. This machine is arranged to rotate the reels upon start of a game and randomly stop the symbols on the reels to allow a player to view them in a display area. The video display supplies a video image to be superimposed on the reels. This reel image is interactive with the reels and includes various information such as payout values and pay table.

A flat panel transmissive video display 14a is placed on the front side of reels 12a, 12b, and 12c as shown in Fig. 2a. This display 14a may be a transmissive liquid crystal display. A video image 18 to be displayed on the video display 14a is displayed to be superimposed on the reels 12a, 12b, and 12c in various patterns as shown in Figs. 3 through 10a to 10c.

Please note that the specification includes the following description to make the video image 18 easy to view without interference by the reels 12a, 12b, and 12c:

The video image 18 is made more opaque through proper selection of colors and their level of brightness. And also, to accentuate the video image 18 relative to the underlying reels following a reel spin, any lamps illuminating the reels during a reel spin may be turned off or dimmed following the reel spin.” (paragraph [0025] lines 3 to 8); and

‘Further, in the direct image embodiment of Fig. 2a, the transmissive video display 14a may be backed by an extendable opaque shade during the bonus game. The shade is retracted from the display area 16 during the basic slot game. When the central processing unit shifts operation from the basic slot game to the bonus game, the shade extends through the display area underlying

reels and thereby completed shield the underlying reels.” (paragraph [0025] lines per 12 to 21)

The second reference (Okada) discloses a game machine having a double reel assembly 20. In the double reel assembly 20, arranged are an outer reel 6 having a plurality of symbols on an outer periphery thereof and an inner reel 17 similarly having a plurality of symbols on an outer periphery thereof. Those outer reel 6 and inner reel 17 are coupled to a drive shaft 18a of a stepping motor 18 and a drive shaft 19a of a stepping motor 19 respectively and caused to rotate.

This outer reel 6 is provided with a specific symbol formed as a square opening or gap 25, whereas the inner reel 17 is not provided with such specific symbol as the square opening 25.

With such double reel assembly 20, as obvious from Fig. 1, one of the symbols on the inner reel 17 can be observed through the opening 25 of the outer reel 6 when the opening 25 stops within the display window 3.

In the above game machine, when a specific symbol (opening 25) on the outer reel 6 is stopped within the display window, the symbols on the inner reel 17 to be displayed at a position for specific symbol is shifted and a symbol among the symbols of the inner reel 17 is stopped at the position for specific symbol. Accordingly, an additional game can be played in connection with the symbols of the inner reel 17.

By comparison between the first and second references and the claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that those references fail to disclose or even suggest the feature of the claimed invention, namely ‘the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display meant”

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not be anticipated by either the first reference or the second reference or a combination thereof.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 7-12 include the features of claims 1-6. Please note that "means" recited in claims at 1-6 has been changed to "device" in claims 7-12.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

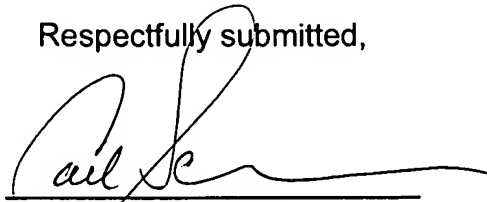
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
                            Petition for Extension of Time (two months)  
                            Abstract of the Disclosure

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